

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAGR, FAO, UN

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

/SUMMARY/: WFC SYG MAREI BRIEFED PERM REPS MAY 24 ON HIS VISITS AND ACTIVITIES IN PAST FEW MONTHS. STRESSED NEED FOR REALISTIC APPROACH IN SECOND AND THIRD PREPCOMMS. OUTLINED PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTRY VISITS AND ACTION TOPICS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE WFC ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. WFC SECRETARY-GENERAL MAREI MET MAY 24, 1974, WITH PERM REPS TO REPORT ON (A) HIS COUNTRY VISITS SINCE APPOINTMENT, (B) PREPARATIONS FOR THE WFC, AND (C) POSSIBLE RESULTS FROM PREP COMMS AND CONFERENCE.

2. EMPHASIZING "BUSINESS-LIKE APPROACH" TO CONFERENCE, MAREI GAVE BRIEF REPORT HIS VISIT ECAFE SESSION IN COLOMBO, HIS CONSULTATIONS IN ALGIERS AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE SPECIAL GA SESSION IN NEW YORK. HE ADVISED THAT HE WOULD SPEND WEEK MAY 26 IN BRUSSELS BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN SECOND PREP COMM GENEVA. FOLLOWING SECOND PREP COMM, MAREI WILL VISIT PANAMA, MAURITIUS, PERHAPS CHINA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, BAGLADESH, THE

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SOVIET UNION AND "SOME" ARAB COUNTRIES.

3. HE ADMITTED THAT TIME PLANNED FOR SECOND PREP COMM IS SHORT AND MAY NEED BE EXTENDED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH SPACE. SPEAKING OF THE WFC PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT, HE REPORTED ITS CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FOOD PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND IN-PUTS SITUATION. CERTAIN PERSONS, HE SAID, FEEL SOME OF THE ASSUMPTIONS IN THE DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE ADVANCED OR REDUCED BUT, NEVERTHELESS, DOCUMENT WILL PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FRUITFUL DISCUSSION. DISCUSSIONS JUNE AND SEPTEMBER MUST BE REALISTIC OR DEVELOPING NATION DISAPPOINTMENT WILL ENSUE. REFERRING TO PAGES 72-74 OF COCUMENT, MAREI SAID THESE "POLICY IMPLICATIONS" WERE INTENDED TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THIRD PREP COMM (SEPTEMBER). LATTER SESSION HE FELT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER CONFERENCE ITSELF IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOCUS DIRECTLY ON DECISIONS RELATED TO PRODUCTION.

4. MAREI SAID HE HAD CONSISTENTLY INFORMED GOVERNMENTS WFC CANNOT SOLVE THE FOOD PROBLEM, BUT WILL HELP CONSIDERABLY IF IT FOCUSES ON A FEW SELECTED ASPECTS. SOME TOPICS RAISED "BY OTHER" ARE; AGREEMENT ON A MINIMUM PLAN OF ASSISTANCE TO BE SUPPORTED BY ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS IN FIRST PHASE. LATER THIS CAN AND SHOULD BE BROADENED. (ACTION MUST INCLUDE A "COMPLETE FOOD POLICY" ENCOMPASSING FOOD AID, EMERGENCY RELIEF AND NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS.) SOME SYSTEM OF FOOD RESERVES, INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL, WITH FOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAMS INCLUDED MUST BE DEVISED. ASSISTANCE FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION, THE FINANCING OF INPUTS, PARTICULARLY FERTILIZERS, IS REQUIRED. AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS, I.E. A FUND, IS MANDATORY. SOME OF THESE, MAREI SAID, MAY LEAD TO NEW INSTITUTIONS OR BANKS FOR DEVELOPMENT. HE NOTED EFFICIENCY OF IBRD AND ITS SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BUT CITED FACT IBRD GIVES ONLY 12 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL INVESTMENT TO AGRICULTURE. HE MAINTAINED BOTH INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED (THROUGH EXISTING OR, IF NECESSARY, NEW INSTITUTIONS) IN FARMER'S TRAINING, SEED DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND FARM MACHINERY.

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5. MAREI ASKED DEPUTY SECRETARY-GERAL ZIZ TO SPEAK CONCERNING TRADE. LATTER NOTED SOME COUNTRIES FEEL TRADE IS INADEQUATELY COVERED IN ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT, BUT PAGES 23 AND 31 DO GIVE SOME TREATMENT TO ISSUE. FINAL DOCUMENT WILL ELABORATE BUT DIFFICULTY WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED BECAUSE OF CONTROVERSIAL NATURE. HE SAID HE HOPED GET BETTER IDEA, BETWEEN NOW AND CONFERENCE, OF WHAT CAN REASONABLY BE DISCUSSED.

6. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS MAREI SAID HE WOULD ATTEND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN LATIN MARICA AND AFRICA, BUT WAS CONVERNED OVER NUMBER OF VISITS ALREADY PLANNED. HE EXPLAINED WHY FIRST PREP COMM HAD NOT APPROVED CONFERENCE AGENDA BUT HOPED FOR ADOPTION IN JUNE. AZIZ ACKNOWLEDGED THIRD PREP COMM WILL OVERLAP WITH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES BUT EXPLAINED THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. WHEN FRANCE ASKED IF PROPOSALS SPECIAL UNGA SESSION WOULD CHANGE WFC AGENDA, AZIZ REPLIED UN ACTIONS HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR "ACTION PROPOSALS" WHICH WFC WILL NEED KEEP IN MIND BUT SHOULD NOT REQUIRE ALTERATION OF PROPOSED AGENDA.

7. ARGENTINA CALLED ATTENTION FAO COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE RECOMMENDATION THAT REGIONAL CONFERENCES ANALYZE PROBLEM OF FOOD AND PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS WFC. ASKED MAREI ATTEND LA CONFERENCE (SYG HAD ALREADY SAID HE WOULD GO PANAMA WHERE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD) AND SAID THIS WOULD HELP MAKE UP FOR ABSENCE LATIN AMERICAN IN MAREI'S FIRST RANK OF STAFF. MAREI EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING LA LEADERS.

8. NETHERLANDS CALLED ATTENTION TO PAGES 72-74 AND STATED THESE GO TO HEART OF WFC ITSELF. WHAT DID MAREI EXPECT SECOND PREP COMM TO DO CONCERNING THEM? LATTER REPLIED THESE "POLICY IMPLICATIONS" DESIGNED STIMULATE DELEGATES. WHILE HE WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE SECOND PREP COMM DISCUSSIONS THESE POLICY MATTERS, DELEGATES OBVIOUSLY COULD RAISE IF THEY WISH.

9. BELGIUM CALLED ATTENTION PARAGRAPH 28 WHICH COMPARED PRODUCTION GROWTH EXTRAPOLATIONS WITH DEMAND GROWTH PROJECTIONS. WHY HAD CONSTANT PRICES BEEN ASSUMED? COULD THE CONCEPT OF RISING PRICES BE INTRODUCED SO THIRD PREP COMM CAN MAKE MORE ACCURATE ASSESSMENT? AZIZ RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT FINAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT WOULD INDEED PRESENT ALTERNATIVE SETS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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